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United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

JAN 17 2006

Mr. Tom Nassif
President
Western Growers
Post Office Box 2130
Newport Beach, California 92658

Dear Mr. Nassif:

Thank you for your comments on behalf of Western Growers concerning the 2007 Farm Bill. We appreciate your sharing your insights and recommendations with us on this important legislation.

Farm Bill issues are and will continue to be a major focus of the Department of Agriculture, and it is good to have the benefit of your thoughts in this regard. I assure you that the ideas you have expressed will be given full consideration as the Department develops its proposals for the bill.

Again, thank you for taking the time to share your views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mike Johanns". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mike Johanns
Secretary